



Happenings & Events

A Publication of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston

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9-11

**“Terrorism against our nation
will not stand”**

-President Bush

September 11, 2001 is a day no one will ever forget; a day when our freedom came under attack. The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce along with many other organizations had a “Call to Arms” meeting on Tuesday the 11th to denounce terrorism against this country. The decision to mobilize the Indian population, to show our support for those affected by the terrorism, was unanimous.

In efforts to extend the support of the Chamber to the relief efforts in New York and Washington D.C., the Chamber sponsored a blood drive at the M.D. Anderson Institute, on Saturday the 15th. There was an overwhelming response from the community and close to forty units were collected in a few short hours.

The Chamber started a fund for the two cities, I-FOCUS

(Indians For Our Country the United States). The goal of I-Focus was to help with the recovery effort of the WTC and the Pentagon bombing. IACCGH has contacted most Indo-American Organizations of Greater Houston to work in unison to collectively raise funds for the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., and presented in a symbolic check of a quarter of a million dollars to Mayor Lee Brown.

The Houston Indian Community came together and helped in every possible to aid the victim’s families in the terrorist attacks.

Luncheon with Mr. Satish Pai
President of Schlumberger
Information Solutions

**“In the year 2000 companies are
seeing a transformation. There is
information sharing between
companies, clients and**

**government. There has been a
“Digitization of process in Oil &
Gas”.”**

-Mr. Satish Pai

The topic of the afternoon was the “iTransformation of the Oil and Gas Industry” and the Tata Consultancy Services America partly sponsored the event. Mr. Pai, a dynamic speaker, covered many topics during the luncheon from recovery factors in the industry and how to improve it, to impact of the “i economy”.

After Mr. Pai, Mr. Jim Thomas, the Vice President of TCS- America, outlined TCS work in the United States and pointed out that it was one of the few IT companies maintaining its profits and not laying off.

Overall, the luncheon was a grand success. Many found the information presented by both Mr. Pai and Mr. Thomas very interesting.

The Rubber Delegation visits Houston

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACCGH) and the Greater Houston Partnership conducted a Business-to-Business forum for the rubber delegation on October 12th. The

delegation was hosted by CAPEXIL, formerly known as the Chemical and Allied Products Export Council. The Ministry Of Commerce, Government of India, sponsors CAPEXIL.

The four-member delegation represented Polymer products, Synthetic Rubber and Rubber products manufactured in India. The four delegates were Mr. M.F. Vohra, Managing Partner of Zenith Rubber and Plastic Works based in Mumbai, Mr. Vipin Kalra, Vice Chairman of Ravasco Transmission and Packing & Hindustan Rubbers also based in Mumbai, Mr. Kannan Sachindra, Director of Marketing for Vajra Rubber Products based in Kerala and Mr. S.K.Ray, Executive Director of CAPEXIL based in Calcutta. The delegation was here to explore trade opportunities for the rubber industry.

Mr. Paul Frison

President & CEO

Houston Technology Center

The IACCGH had their October meeting on the 11th of October at the Westin Galleria hotel. Mr. Paul Frison, President & CEO of the Houston Technology Center, was the featured guest speaker. Mr. Paul Frison was elected President, CEO and Director of HTC (Houston Technology Center) in 1999.

HTC is focused on assisting and growing emerging entrepreneurial businesses emanating from Houston's four key technology sectors: aerospace, energy, information technology (hardware, software and telecommunications), and life sciences. Through its educational programs and activities, HTC promotes the advancement of technology and science, as well. Mr. Frison urged everyone to get involved with HTC to make Houston a successful organization.

The evening's talk was well received by all attendees and many questions were asked of the speaker.

TRAVEL ADVISORY ON DOMESTIC TRAVEL FOR IMMIGRANT AND NON-IMMIGRANTS

Law offices of Deepa Thakur has kindly put together this advisory to help travelers in the coming year. We understand that INS is setting up checkpoints at various U.S. airports, at both domestic and international terminals. We understand that many foreign national, whether they are lawful permanent residents or "nonimmigrant workers" (e.g., those in H-1B, L-1, TN-1 status, etc.) have been asked to present their "green card" or their passport and I-94 card. We understand that INS

officers are requesting I-797 petition approval notices in addition to the above documents.

These requests are based on Section 264(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This statute requires all "aliens" over the age of 18 to carry on their person "any certificate of alien registration", under penalty of a misdemeanor criminal conviction. INS regulation 264.1 (a) defines an I-94 card as a "prescribed registration form". Such a conviction is punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, a \$100 fine or both. For the time being, it appears that such checks for identification are only being conducted at U.S. airports, for both domestic and international travel.

All nonimmigrant foreign nationals traveling within the United States or abroad should be prepared to carry their passport, their I-94 card, and their I-797 petition approval notice. Those who are lawful permanent residents should carry their alien registration cards (green cards) or other evidence of lawful permanent residence (e.g., a foreign passport with I-551 ADIT stamp). Since these documents are critical, extreme caution should be taken to protect against their theft, loss or damage.

**IACCGH Lunch with Dean
Flumerfelt**

Cullen College of Eng.

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) hosted a successful luncheon on November 26th with Dr Raymond Flumerfelt, Dean Cullen College of Engineering. The event was well attended by members of the IACCGH and leaders and members of several local minority Chambers of commerce. The attendees had an opportunity to network with their peers and have their minds expanded by the insightful talk given by the Guest Speaker.

Dr. Flumerfelt took over as Dean of the Cullen College of Engineering in August of 1998. Before which he was a faculty member for seventeen years. Dean Flumerfelt participated in securing a 50 million dollar grant from the State of Texas for Engineering and Science Building. In his quest to set up the Cullen College as a leading institute of engineering he has set up an Engineering Leadership Board. This is the first of many steps towards making the college a Tier I institute similar to UT and Texas A & M.

Dr. Flumerfelt enlightened the audience about the new global challenges that everyone should be prepared to face. He stressed that the "Social Contract" of yester-years was in the past and now there is a permanent downsizing by all companies. He strongly recommended two books to learn more about the Global Marketplace, "Future of Capitalism" and "Building Wealth" both by Lester Thurow. In 1990's alone two and a half million jobs were downsized, said Dr. Flumerfelt. He said another book "Straight from the Gut" by Jack Welch talks about the new trend in out sourcing and being central to global competitiveness.

The numbers of science graduates in the US have always been well below Asia and Europe. In 1996 the number of engineering and science graduates were about 63,000 versus 343,000 in Asia. But US has the most number of PhD's mainly from Europe and Asia. This is a resource US and Universities count on heavily.

Switching tracks, Dr. Flumerfelt, gave tips on how to stay in the running and improve one's marketability. He pointed out it was the smaller companies

which offer more opportunities versus large corporations He urged new graduates and old ones to maintain their mobility by constantly updating their knowledge, sharpening their expertise and thinking like entrepreneurs instead of like engineers. Keep abreast of the new trends and business opportunities and do not pigeon hole oneself by becoming too specialized in one field, he advised. Houston is the hotbed of entrepreneurship said the doctor. He recommended Universities adapt their curriculums to suit the demands of the new global marketplace. His recommendations, to universities, are that they should enhance learning abilities of the students by providing a strong knowledge base to build on. Degrees need to be wider, for example Engineers should also leave with a working knowledge of finance, marketing and law. Thereby allowing them to see the big picture similar to MBA students who only see the big picture and not the details. What the Dean would like to see is a hybrid of students who have the ability to be detail oriented and also see the big picture.

This very interesting and informative talk was followed by a question answer session that involved active audience participation. Mr. Ashok Shah, President Elect of IACCGH, gave the vote of thanks and echoed everyone's sentiments when he commended the Dean on the quality of the informative and mind expanding talk given with such ease and eloquence. Business reporter Ed Mayberry of KUHF 88.7 FM covered this event.

The detailed write up can be viewed on the iaccgh web site under events.

Report Card Day, **December Advisors Dinner**

The annual report card day for the year 2001 was on December 17th at the Rice University Faculty Club.

Once a year our distinguished advisors make time to come to this dinner meeting to be updated on the activities of the Chamber in the past year and learn about the activities planned for the coming year. This is also the time they offer their guidance and advise to steer the Chamber in the right direction.

Six of our nine advisors were able to attend and the IACCGH thanks them for taking the time in their busy schedule to attend. This year we had the pleasure of welcoming: Consul General Rinzing Wangdi and his Gracious wife Pema, Dr. John Mendelsohn & his charming wife Ann of M.D.Anderson, Dr. Malcolm Gillis of Rice Univ., Mr. Bob Beauchamp of BMC, Mr. George Hrdlicka and his lovely wife Judy of Hrdlicka, etal Law firm, And last but not the least our newest advisor Dr. Ray Bowen & his wife Sally of Texas A & M.

Mr. Ashoke Nath gave the Advisors report (which can be viewed on the website) and invited each advisor to come and give his advise to the chamber. The speeches have been recorded verbatim and posted on the web site for everyone to read. The advisors as a whole were very pleased at the achievements of the Chamber in the two short years of its existence and offered encouragement for its continued success.

January Networking Dinner

The networking dinner for members was held on January 23rd at Bombay Palace.

Mr. Ashok Shah gave the members an update on the activities of the Chamber. Mrs. Chitra Shanbhogue introduced the new members to the membership. Consul General Rinzing Wangdi presented Mr. Jonathan Faulkner an award for his efforts in getting Chamber publications printed. Members are encouraged to avail of these

networking opportunities that the Chamber arranges to get the maximum benefit out of your membership. The full presentation of the activity report is on our web site.

February 13th-

Dr. John Lienhard, Author and Voice of *The Engines of Our Ingenuity*, a daily public radio series about machines and the people who created them. He average 50-60 speaking engagements in a year. A much sought after speaker Topic: **"Innovation, A Dangerous Guest---**
- "Do you really want creative people in your organization"
Details of the event is on our web site.

Upcoming Events

March 20th –Westin Galleria, 6.30-8.30 p.m

David Schein- President and General Counsel for Claremont Management Group, Inc. **"Managing your workforce in difficult economic times"**

April- Dr. Krishna Rao, Exxon Mobil. Topic: **"Petro Chemical trends for this Century"**

May 4th – *Intercontinental Hotel*

Annual Gala. Keynote speaker; Ambassador Frank Wisner, President American Intl. Corp. Former Ambassador to India.

(Next quarterly edition of the newsletter will be in May 2002)

